President Gorbachev visit to India

732. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when President Gorbachev of the USSR is expected to visit India in the near future; and

(b) what subjects are proposed to be discussed with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) President Gorbachev is visiting India from the 18th to the 20th November; 1988.

(b) A wide range of belateral matters, aimed at further strengthening Indo USSR cooperation will be discussed as also international issues of importance.

Elections in Sri Lanka

733. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what arrangements and the procedures have been adopted for elections in the northern and eastern provinces in Sri Lanka, the total number of nominations filed for the elections and the names of Tamil groups participating in elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Elections to the Provincial Council of the combined North Eastern Province in Sri Lanka are to be held in accordance with the Provincial Council Electoral Law and other related laws and procedures. The total number of nominations filed in the eight districts of the North-Eastern Province is 170. The Tamil Parties who are participating in the election are the EPRLF and ENDLF.

Views of shri premadasa regarding withdrawal of IPKF

734. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 10th October, 1988 regarding views expressed by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on the question of merger of northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the withdrawal of IPKF by December, 1988 and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken note of Mr. Premadasa's views.

Detenus in IPKF prisons

735. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kittu and other detenues after being taken from prisons of Tamil Nadu, were kept under detention in IPKF prison camps;

(b) what were the modalities adopted for their transportation; and

(c) what is the number of the LTTE detenus who are still in IPKF prison camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, and 156 other LTTE detenues, who were under detention in the Central jails at Madras and Madurai, were released from these jails on October 9, 1988, and as requested by them, transported to Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in a service aircraft.